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**Japan in the Beginning of the 20th Century.** viii and 827 pp. No index. Imperial Japanese Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Tokyo, 1904.

An official and exhaustive work, compiled in the various departments of the Japanese Government for foreign readers, and of value to all who wish to acquaint themselves with the material condition of Japan. It deals with geography, population, government, and land system of the empire; with the primary industries of agriculture and stock-raising, mining and the fisheries; with the manufacturing industries, their encouragement and protection, and industrial education; with the foreign trade, finances, currency, and banking; with communications by post, telegraph, and telephone; and with transportation and education. A supplement of 50 pp. gives similar information concerning Formosa.

The section on the geography of Japan is little more than a bare summary of the orographic and hydrographic features, their position, and extent, and of the leading towns and ports of the country. Heights are given in terms of the Japanese *shaku*, which, however, is so nearly equivalent to 1 foot (.994) that heights expressed in this denomination may be used by readers of English without much difficulty. The geology of the empire is treated in a chapter on minerals, but is chiefly confined to the economic aspects of the subject.

**Europe and the Far East.** By Sir Robert K. Douglas. viii and 450 pp., 2 black and 2 coloured maps and index. The University Press, Cambridge, 1904. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

This volume is one of the Cambridge Historical Series, the aim of which is "to sketch the history of modern Europe with that of its chief colonies and conquests, from about the end of the fifteenth century down to the present time." Prof. Douglas's contribution deals with the relations between the European nations and the countries of China, Japan, Annam, and Siam. In a book of medium size like this it is, of course, necessary to treat in a summary manner a great deal of the information given on so large a topic, but Prof. Douglas's style is animated and his narrative is interesting. He treats each of these eastern countries separately in their relations with Europe, and gives considerable attention to their physical features, natural resources, and means of communication, all of which have their influence upon the political, philanthropic, and other relations between Europe and the East which he unfolds. He appends a long bibliography for those who desire to extend their studies, and has this to say about the use of the hyphen in Chinese names:

The use of the hyphen in Chinese words is often misleading. It used to be the habit to separate each syllable of a Chinese name by a hyphen, which is no more necessary than it would be to write Win-chester or Peters-burg. This usage is gradually becoming obsolete. We now write Peking instead of Pe-king, Shanghai instead of Shang-hai; and the old practice, where unnecessary, will, no doubt, die out in time.

A short article on Chinese geographical terms gives the meaning of a considerable number of syllables or words that are much used in Chinese place-names. The book will be very helpful to those who seek to interpret recent events in the light of the causes which led up to them.

**A Russo-Chinese Empire. (An English Version of "Un Empire Russo-Chinois.")** By Alexandre Ular. xix and 301 pp. and index. Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd., Westminster, 1904. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

This political essay is based upon the history of events in East Asia within the past 40 years, and especially upon the Russian advance on China, by which, accord-

ing to the author, the Russian Government was able practically to annex Manchuria and Mongolia, and entertained the ultimate purpose of incorporating at least the north of China in the Russian Empire. He writes of the Chinese with sympathetic appreciation of their virtues, defends them against those who say they have a low standard of civilization, and takes a wholly anti-Russian view in his account of the expansion of Russia in the Far East. He undoubtedly presents many facts that have escaped general notice in the Occident.

**Dans les Rapides du Fleuve Bleu. Par le Lt. de Vaisseau Hourst,**  
iii and 363 pp., 50 illustrations and a map of Szechuan. Plon-Nourrit & Co., Paris, 1904. (Price, 10 fr.)

Lieut. Hourst, the first man to descend the Niger from Timbuktu to the ocean, successfully made the ascent of the Yangtse rapids in October, 1901, on the French gunboat *Oly*, which, although not very well adapted for her dangerous journey, got through the gorges above Ichang and steamed farther up the river than the British vessels which had preceded her. The Germans attempted to make the same journey in 1900, but their steamer, the *Sui-hsiang*, was wrecked on a reef, and Capt. Breitang was drowned.

The book is a popular and vivacious description of Lieut. Hourst's triumph over these dangerous rapids. It is well illustrated, and abounds with entertaining incidents and anecdotes. It is to the author's credit that he succeeded in making a triangulation of the river through the rapids between Ichang and Chungking, 395 nautical miles, and between Chungking and Suifu, 230 nautical miles. This survey will be of value for the navigation and more accurate mapping of the river.

**Een Jaar Aan Boord H. M. Siboga. Door Mevrouw A. Weber-van Bosse.** (Second Edition.) xi and 335 pp., numerous half-tone pictures and a map. No index. E. J. Brill, Leiden, 1904. (Price, fl. 1.50.)

For readers of Dutch this is a delightful book. It is a description of a year's cruise on the deep-sea exploring vessel *Siboga* in the Indian Archipelago in 1899 and 1900. It was a voyage covering 12,000 sea miles, and was very fruitful in biological collections, and additions to our knowledge of a wide area of the sea-floor. The leader was Prof. Max Weber of Amsterdam, who was accompanied by Madam Weber-van Bosse, herself an accomplished naturalist, who made a very complete collection of algæ during the cruise. The routine of scientific work on an exploring vessel is revealed, the methods and apparatus for making collections are described, and there are stories of visits to the islands and many amusing incidents that give variety to a cruise. The book is popular, and while the average reader cannot help imbibing considerable oceanography and biology, he is spared a large amount of scientific detail.

**The New Nation. By Percy F. Rowland.** x and 324 pp., 2 Appendices and index. Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1903. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

This is a sketch of the social, political, and economic condition and prospects of the Australian Commonwealth. The author spent seven years in various parts of Australia, and he has endeavoured to write a candid and impartial account of the young Commonwealth. His view of Australia, from her beginnings in the Convict Settlement to her present position as a great State among the nations, is full of enlighten-